

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to define the UV absorber to be represented by Formula [1-a], [1-b], [1-c], or [1-d] based on the disclosure in the specification at page 62, line 18, to page 64, 3rd line from the bottom. Claim 18 has been canceled.

Entry of the above amendment is respectfully requested.

Art Rejection

Claims 1, 2, and 5-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Oshima in view of Tuft and Muller.

In response, Applicant notes initially that Tutt et al. (USP No. 5,985,526) discloses a thermal recording element, and an overcoat layer that may contain a UV absorber to prevent dye degradation.

However, nowhere does Tutt et al. teach or suggest an overcoat layer containing the specific UV absorber recited in the amended claim 1.

In addition, Tutt discloses a thermal recording element that can be used as a mask placed over a printing plate - the thermal recording element cannot be used as a printing plate itself.

For this reason, a person having ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to apply Tutt's teaching of an overcoat layer containing a UV absorber to Oshima's protective layer to achieve the invention recited in the present application. Therefore, the rejection of claim 1 and the claims dependent thereon should be withdrawn accordingly.

Further, with respect to dependent claim 20 in particular, Muller does not teach, suggest, or otherwise render obvious the specific carboxylic groups recited therein. In this regard, with respect to Muller's formula (I), it is noted that Y, which is O, S, or NR⁷, must be present.

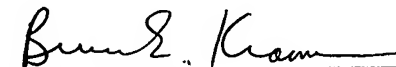
Thus, Applicant submits that the invention as recited in the amended claims is not obvious over the cited art combination, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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